works recommended by the MP in case these are found to be technically feasible and also fall within the scope of the relevant factors.

(c) and (d) Some instances of delay in getting the works done under the MPLADS have come to the notice of the Government of India. General Instructions have already been issued to all the District Collectors to get the works executed expeditiously. Whenever specific complaints are received, reports are called for from the concerned Collectors and suitable instructions are issued whenever necessary. In certain cases, the officers of the Department make on-the-spot inquiry and request the Chief Secretary of the concerned State to take suitable action.

Decontrol of Sugar

1306. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering any proposal to decontrol sugar and to do away with the dual pricing system in respect of sugar;

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter; and

(c) what is the production capacity of sugar installed (state-wise) and the annual production and requirement during 1993, 1994 (likely figures)?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The present policy of partial control with dual pricing system is to be continued for the present.

(c) A statement showing the installed capacity is enclosed (*See* below)

The annual production and requirement during the last three years is as follows:

Sugar Year	Production of Sugar (lakh tonnes)	Internal consumption* (lakh tonnes)
1992-93	106.09	120.05
1993-94	98.24	111.29
1994-95	145.85	118.55

*Provisional

Statement

Sector-wise Installed Capacity in terms of annual Sugar Production on the basis of norms (Average data of last 10 years viz. (1978-79) to (1987-88): In Lakh Tonnes.

(Position as on 30.9.1995)

Sl. No.	State	Public Sector/ State Owned	Private Sector	Coop. Sector	Total
1.	Punjab	—	2.094	4.155	6.249
2.	Haryana	—	1.126	2.436	3.562
3.	Rajasthan	0.062	0.093	0.077	0.232
4.	Uttar Pradesh	6.838	17.451	7.769	32.058
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0.044	0.609	0.334	0.987
6.	Gujarat	—	—	8.111	8.111
7.	Maharashtra	—	1.6977	36.6433	38.3410
8.	Bihar	1.362	2.760	—	4.122
9.	Assam	0.069	—	0.115	0.184
10.	Orissa	—	0.626	0.392	1.018
11.	West Bengal	0.022	0.045	—	0.067

Sl. No.	State	Public Sector/ State Owned	Private Sector	Coop. Sector	Total
12.	Nagaland	0.064	—	—	0.064
13.	Andhra Pradesh	1.060	2.995	2.291	6.346
14.	Karnataka	1.346	2.9835	4.0365	8.3660
15.	Tamil Nadu	1.061	5.918	4.865	11.844
16.	Pondicherry	—	0.209	0.174	0.383
17.	Kerala	—	0.034	0.136	0.170
18.	Goa	—	—	0.093	0.093
	TOTAL:	11.9280	38.6412	71.6278	122.1970

Amending Minimum Wages Act, 1948

1307. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to amend the Minimum Wage Act, 1948 effecting the linkage of minimum wages with price indices and making the periodical revisions of minimum wages mandatory; and

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (b) A proposal to amend the Minimum Wage Act, 1948 providing, *inter alia* for the review/revision of minimum wages at least once in two years, unless the minimum wages has a variable component linked to Consumer Price Index numbers, is under consideration of the Government.

Implications of inclusion of Medical Profession under Consumer Protection Act

1308. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 56 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th November, 1995 and state:

(a) the peripheral implications of inclusion of Medical Profession under Consumer Protection Act which might pose to Government in upgrading the facilities in hospitals run by Government; and

(b) whether Government will take the initiative to bring about a consensus on the issue through a collective dialogue between the concerned ministries and the Indian Medical Association to ensure that the Apex Court's ruling is honoured in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) and (b) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, services of any description including medical services if rendered/availed of for any consideration are covered under the Act. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its recent Judgement have upheld the provisions of the Act. Services rendered at a Government hospital/health centre/ dispensary where no amount, whatsoever, is charged from any person availing the services and all patients are given free service is outside the purview of the Act. There is no proposal to initiate any dialogue with the Indian Association.